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In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt
Appomattox, Virginia

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THAT IMPORTANT ELECTION COMING UP

Perhaps the most important election Virginia has had in recent years is scheduled for early January. That is on the issue of calling a State Constitutional Convention to make changes in certain sections of the present Constitution regarding the public school system. The issue at stake is vital to every family in the Old Dominion, and it is unthinkable that there will be anything else but a full vote. But is comes in the midst of a season when public attention is elsewhere, and it is going to be difficult to make people see that they must vote in this special election, and that a supreme effort must be made to save the best interests of the Commonwealth and its time-honored traditions.

Doubtless, there will be mass meetings arranged, and every effort will be made to carry the facts to the citizens. We commend those who will take time to see that this is done, and, holiday season or no, Virginia must acquit itself well in the few important weeks ahead.

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THE CHRISTMAS RUSH

Now that Thanksgiving is over, the attention of Americans everywhere is focused on the fast - approaching holiday season. Christmas this year falls on a Sunday and that means that the last shopping day before Christmas will be Saturday, the 24th.

Between now and the 24th of December, billions of dollars will be spent in the United States for Christmas gifts, arrangements, parties, and for travel. We hope these billions of dollars, spent by Americans, who are the only people on earth who could spend such an amount for Christmas, will bring about a realization of the values of Christmas and its meaning.

Christmas has been over-commercialized for many years. Remembering, and the thought of wanting to do something for someone, is the real spirit of Christmas. Expensive presents, lavish parties, commercial extravaganzas, and so forth, are not the real spirit of Christmas.

One of the other unfortunate recent aspects of Christmas is the fact that December has become a month of staggering highway fatalities. December claims more traffic and highway victims than other months, and one of the reasons is the great amount of travel during the Christmas season.

Some of this travel is necessitated by shopping trips to other cities and towns. We ask all local citizens to shop at home this year, as much as possible, both to keep down highway traffic and to keep our money at home — where it will benefit all of us again and again. And we urge our readers to do their shopping and enjoy Christmas, 1955, by remembering the true meaning of the observance and enjoy it for what it is and should be.

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DEMOCRATIC ATTACKS ON PROSPERITY

The current vogue seems to be for Democratic candidates to attack today's porsperity as a false one, which might collapse at any moment. Democrats are also assailing the foreign policy accomplishments, or failures, of the Administration, and charging that the Administration has flubbed the ball in dealing with Communists.

This is to be expected, in large measure, with a Presidential election less than a year away. However, the opposition party—the party out of power—has a responsibility in attacking the party in power, and the Government, and today's prosperity, which, we hope, will be met.

In 1952, we were quick to defend the Democratic Administration against charges that it had been an Administration of twenty years of treason. Such charges were ridiculous and highly out of order, and dangerous because of their complete irresponsibility.

In today's prosperity, with the exception of the farmer, one should be careful not to paint a picture of coming collapse. While we feel sure that Democratic candidates may often be quite sincere in believing that today's prosperity is a false one, certain factors about today's prosperity are quite real and cannot be talked out of existence.

In addition, the confidence of the public, the taxpayer and the investor, is something which should not be destroyed for political purposes. This does not rule out political attacks on the economic strength of the country under the present Administration, or on the economic future, if present policies are followed.

The country is in a healthy economic condition, with the one major exception of the farmer. If something is done to alleviate the farmer's plight, it may well that we are in for a decade of comparatively good times. We do not think that a Democratic victory in next year's election would alter this fact.

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President Eisenhower may have been lucky, in experiencing a moderate heart attack, if it slows him down and prevents a more serious one later.

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The tall man now take over, as basketball becomes sports king for December, and the short brethren might as well play tiddley-winks.

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CHARITY ORGANIZATIONS IN NEW YORK

We are sorry to see the continuing concentration of national charitable organizations' headquarters in New York City. We believe that such organizations should be under the control of local people so far as possible, and that complete financial accountings should be made of receipts and disbursements. It costs a lot of money to set up a national headquarters in New York City. It is nowhere near the center of the United States. Charity should begin at home and larger percentages of money collected should be left at home.

In addition, we believe that all the charitable and disease-fighting organizations in local communities should make a greater effort to set up one big community drive in which all groups will share, and eliminate the necessity of one to two dozen drives a year, often over-lapping, and consuming too much time of the few available volunteer workers. The excessive number of fund-raising efforts can only bring on a bad reaction among public-spirited citizens, who are happy to make a sacrifice to aid worthy causes, but distaste to be solicited for money every time they turn around.

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COTTON SUPPLY AT RECORD HIGH

The Department of Agriculture reported a few days ago that the total supply of cotton for the 1955-56 marketing season was estimater as 25,900,000 bales.

This is a new cotton supply record, over two milllion bales greater than the previous record in the 1939-40 season.

Out of the total supply, it appears that domestic and foreign markets will take about 12,000,000 bales, which is 400,000 bales less than was consumed by these markets last year. The decline is the result of a drop in the export market and not a decline in the domestic market.

The major reason for the increase in the total supply of cotton is greater production this season than had been expected. The Department now estimates that production this year will be fifty per cent above the Government's production goal.

The Government faces the same problem with cotton that it faces with several other crops. It must find markets. With exports likely to drop off at least 400,000 bales this year, and possibly as much as 600,000 bales, one can readily see the importance of selling our cotton overseas.

It seems obvious that the Department of Agriculture must soon come up with a plan to dispose of huge U. S. surpluses in several crops, without shattering the world market, and without upsetting normal trade patterns any more than necessary.

Around Your Home

By Frances Dell

Air conditioning will probably be built into less than two per cent of the new homes started in 1955. However, the principles of good window use for these homes should be of wide interest. The reason is that exactly the same principles apply to increasing summer in non-air conditioned homes.

It is good to know that windows rank second to roofs as potential sources of heat gain. Experience has indicated that heat gains through the roof are not too hard to control. A combination of light colored roofs, a good air wash between roof and insulation and extra heavy ceiling insulation does the trick. That leaves windows as the one important area where good design can cut air conditioning costs and increase comfort.

If direct sunlight is allowed to pour through windows, the heat gain can be disastrous to comfort and to air conditioning costs if the home is air conditioned.

The location of windows for air conditioning means avoiding east and west facing windows, which are hard to shade. You should take advantage of natural shade provided by trees and have an overhanging roof. Exterior shading is considered much better than the very popular double-glazed heat absorbing glass which stops 54 per cent of the radiated heat. Exterior shading is so completely effective that you can economically use windows anywhere you want as long as you provide exterior shading.

Moisture is an all important factor to be considered if you want to be cool next summer. Moisture is created by living, cooking, bathing, and unvented clothes dryers is likely to be a more serious problem in air conditioned homes than high door temperatures. In most climates during much of the cooling season night ventilation will prove as good or better at ridding the home of much of this moisture.

Every home should be weather stripped. It will save money during the winter on heat bills. If your home is air conditioned, it will save your money for you on cooling the summer.

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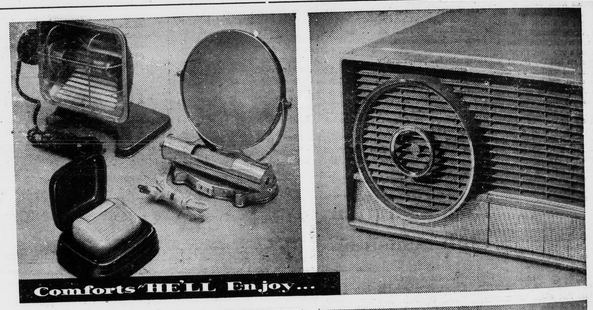

This Christmas...
Make It A Gift Of COMFORT!

It's just human nature for mother or dad to short-change themselves in the "comfort" department. This is why a gift that provides super-comfort is especially thoughtful on your part.
The special man in your life is sure to welcome a well-lighted, magnifying shaving mirror, with a companion-piece of an electric razor. A sun lamp would provide a healthful tan, while a wonderful surprise would be an air conditioner he could place in his room! And who could be more deserving of a gift of comfort than the lady of the house. A gift of an electric blanket to set to any sleeping temperature . . . a quick, efficient hair dryer . . . or an electric massager to erase all tiredness.
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FARM NEWS

By J. A. Smith, County Agent

Land Values Up

Report by the U. S. Department of Agriculture on Farm Real Estate as of July, shows a continued upward trend in market prices in land values in this state during the period between March and July, bringing them 6% above their previous level as of July, 1954. Nationally, a continued moderate advance in the dollar value of U. S. farmland during the first half of 1955, brought farm real estate values back to the previous peak reached in 1952. This was following the 1951 outbreak.

Compared with a year ago, farm values of 36 states showed gains of 2% or more this July, and regional average increases were largest increases occuring in the Central Corn Belt, where gains ranged from 5% to 8%. Similar increases occured in Texas, Louisiana and Florida. Only three states, Vermont and Wyoming, reported significantly below a year ago.

The strength in land values appears to be based in part on strong demand for additional land to enlarge existing farms and permit more efficient use of farm machinery, the USDA. More available credit is also given as a factor, and a general favorable outlook in the farm economy.

More than two-thirds of the farms and farm tracts sold in 1954 and the first half of 1955, were bought by farmers.

Feeder Calf Sale

Results of Virginia's 1955 Feeder Calf Sales show a total of 23,[illegible] animals sold, of which 36% were in the fancy and choice pens, selling for an average of $20.[illegible] per cwt.

This is an increase of $1.58 per cwt over last year, when 24,445 calves were sold.

The steers outsold the heifers $21.48 per cwt. being paid for steers as compared to $17.27 for the heifers. There also was a difference of $1.60 per cwt. difference between price paid for fancy and choice calves and those paid for cattle grading medium. Average weight of steers was 455 pounds, and the heifers 423 pounds.

In the yearling sales, 12,229 head were sold, of which 20% were in the fancy and choice pens and brought for an average of $18.72 per cwt. The fancy and choice averaged $19.[illegible], good averaged $19.11, medium averaged $18.23 and common averaged $15.82 per cwt.

Some heifers, bulls, stags and unsexed steers were sold in the yearling sales for a total of 12,[illegible] head of all animals averaging $18.[illegible] per cwt.

Winter Dysentery

Winter dysentery is a disease that attacks cattle in many herds. Although few deaths result from this disease, many animals become severely dehydrated and lose weight. Production in dairy herds may be cut in half and the return to normal is very slow.

At first, one or two animals will have a watery discharge. The rest of the herd will usually show symptoms in two or three days. Temperature remains normal or is only slightly higher. Appetite usually remains good.

Winter dysentery has taken on added importance recently because of its resemblance to mucosal disease, a much more severe and fatal condition. It is difficult to tell the difference between the two. Certain precautions can and should be taken to prevent either winter dysentery or mucosal diseases as well as to help control them. Visitors should be kept out of the feed alleys. Do not visit neighbors who have trouble in their herds. Reduce feeding as soon as diarrhea appears. Add molasses to the feed to increase its laxative action during the outbreak and do not change the ration abruptly.

If this disease resembling the facts listed above appears, consult your veterinarian immediately for an early diagnosis and proper treatment.

Kill Cattle Lice

Cattle that go into winter without being treated for lice are at a disadvantage and will show up as being unprofitable as compared with those that have been treated for lice.

Cattle should be treated during warm sunny days when there is little wind blowing. Lice can cause size able reduction in milk production and in growth of beef cattle.

Alfalfa Disease

A number of diseased alfalfa stems have been sent to the VPI laboratory from all over Virginia this fall. Most of the growers sending specimens state that the alfalfa was gradually dying out, usually beginning in spots.

Several different diseases have been found. In almost every case, injury has been greatly increased because alfalfa has been grown in the same soil for several years. As a result, the soil has become heavily infested with various disease organisms and insects.

Alfalfa should always be planted in soil that has not grown alfalfa and if possible had not grown clovers during the preceding two or three years. Many of the same diseases affect alfalfa and clovers, and therefore a rotation in which neither of these groups follow each other is desirable.

The relatively new variety of alfalfa known as Buffalo, is resistant to bacterial wilt. However, even if Buffalo is planted and the soil is heavily infested with the bacterial wilt organism, you can expect injury from the disease. Just because a variety is resistant does not mean that it is immune. It merely means that it can exist and will produce a better crop in diseased soil than a non-resistant variety.

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Clover Hill

Clover Hill, Dec. 6.- Mr. and Mrs. Milton Martin and daughter, Kitty, and Mrs. J. P. Johnson spent the week-end in Ashland with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Johnson. While there they visited Mr. J. P. Johnson at McGuire's Hospital, Richmond.

Mr. Henry Gills, of Buckingham is spending some time in the home of Mrs. W. P. Gills.

Mrs. W. L. Turnes, of Vera, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. J. L. Torrence.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Covington are on the sick list.

Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Richardson and Mesdames Jessie Carwile and Christine Whitehead visited Braxton Coleman at Medical College Hospital Saturday. They report him much improved.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Carter spent Saturday shopping in Richmond.

Clover Hill Home Demonstration Club members are reminded of the County Christmas Party on Thursday, December 15, at the new Elementary School, at 2 P. M. Each member is supposed to bring a home-made gift.

Recent visitors of Mrs. Wilson Pauellte were Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Paulette and son, Steve, of Charlottesville, and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Paulette, of Irvington.

Mrs. Paulette and Gene Paulette spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Claude Tucker, of Charlotte C. H., and C. V. Tucker, of Phenix.

Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Lewis were Mr. and Mrs. James Vaughan and children, Jimmy, Ronnie, Anne, Billy and Bobby, and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Vaughan and daughters, Pam, Charlotte and Carolyn, all of Victoria; Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Vaughan, of Farmville, and Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Vaughan, of Spout Springs.

Mr. and Mrs. Elkin Hamilton and daughter, Donna, of Lynchburg, were dinner guests Saturday evening of Miss Della Ingo.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Torrence and two children, of Spout Springs, visited in the D. E. Torrence home Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Torrence and family spent Sunday in Lynchburg with Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Bondurant.

CAN'T RESIST POSTERS

Louisville, Ky.- Capt. John S. Bromley admits he never could resist a recruiting poster. At 17, he saw a poster urging him to 'Join the Navy." He did, after four years with the Navy, and Marine Corps he was discharged. The next year, he joined the Air Force, ending his hitch in Japan in 1949. Before being discharged, however, Bromley saw another poster, which urged, "Join the Army." His transfer was arranged and after officer-candidate school, he was sent to Korea for eighteen months. Now, he's at Fort Knox, test-flying wrecked airplanes—after- they've been rebuilt.

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